

4 SLA militiamen hurt in clash

TEL AVIV (R) — Four militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were wounded in clashes with commandos in the Israeli-declared security zone in southern Lebanon, security sources said. The men were injured when mortar fire hit an SLA position near Aiyashiye, north of the SLA stronghold of Marjayoun, the sources said. Fighting near Aiyashiye last Wednesday killed two Shi'ite guerrillas and one SLA militiaman. Elsewhere in the Marjayoun district, SLA forces Saturday intercepted guerrillas planting a roadside bomb near Taibe, the sources said, adding that the guerrillas withdrew when the SLA patrol arrived and there were no casualties on either side. United Nations peacekeeping forces in southern Lebanon have started a crash programme to fortify their positions since Shi'ite fighters last week overran a U.N. post, firing from the emplacement on nearby Israeli troops.

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Crown Prince visits army unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday visited a unit of the Third Royal Armoured Division and watched a training exercise in which live ammunition was used. The Regent talked with officers and soldiers of the unit, expressing his admiration for the level of training attained by them.

Iraq denies attacking civilians in Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — A military spokesman Sunday denied Iranian reports that Iraqi planes attacked civilian areas of Azarbaijan province in western Iran Saturday. The spokesman said the Iraqi Air Force went into action Saturday against Iranian Islands in the Majnoon Islands area on the southern front and against Iranian military positions in the north. Iraq said Saturday it had recaptured several kilometres of territory in the Majnoon Islands area.

Sharaa arrives in Iran

NICOSIA, Syria (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, in a meeting Sunday in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart, renewed Damascus' support for Iran in the Gulf war against Iraq. Iran's official news agency reported. Mr. Sharaa arrived in Tehran on Sunday carrying a message from President Hafez Assad to his Iranian counterpart, Ali Khamenei, dealing with recent developments in the region and issues of mutual interest, Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Israel, Soviets to discuss Mideast peace conference

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Sunday said Israel and the Soviet Union would be in contact next month over the issue of Soviet participation in a Middle East peace conference, armed forces radio reported. The radio said Peres told a weekly cabinet meeting that the contacts would focus on Israel's conditions for Soviet involvement in a U.N.-sponsored conference — the renewal of diplomatic relations severed by Moscow during the 1967 Middle East war and unlimited Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. It gave no details on the framework for the contacts, but a Soviet delegation is due in Israel by early next month.

Iran detains oil tanker for inspection

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran said Sunday its gunboats intercepted and detained an unidentified oil tanker passing through the Strait of Hormuz, and searched three other ships but let them go after no Iraq-bound cargo was found on board. The interception was carried out Saturday at the Gulf's only outlet, said a war communiqué reported by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia. The ship's ownership and the flags they were flying were not disclosed.

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Senator sees no grounds for impeaching Reagan

WASHINGTON (R) — The chairman of the Senate panel investigating the Iran arms scandal said Sunday he saw no grounds so far for impeaching President Reagan.

"I don't think it would end up with the impeachment of the president," Senator Daniel Inouye said on U.S. television.

"I haven't seen anything as far as I'm concerned that would be sufficient grounds to impeach the president of the United States," he said.

Sen. Inouye made the comment when asked if he thought the investigation could lead to the impeachment of Mr. Reagan, who has been faced with the worst crisis of his presidency as a result of the secret arms sales to Iran and diversion of funds to Nicaraguan contra rebels.

But he added that he believed Mr. Reagan knew more about the Iran arms operation than he has admitted publicly.

"One of your earlier programmes, I suggested to the chairman of many that the president wasn't absolutely honest when he

said 'I didn't know' because I felt after reading the documents that he knew much more than he says he knows," the senator said.

Sen. Inouye also said marine Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, the fired White House security aide who was a key figure in the scandal and whose testimony last week won him unexpectedly strong public sympathy, "wasn't absolutely candid."

"I think for the most part, especially on the larger issues, he was rather candid, at times rather explosively candid," Sen. Inouye said. "... but there are a few minor points that must be followed up ... that we can't understand."

He declined to specify what the points were.

Also appearing on the programme was Senator Warren Rudman, Republican co-chairman of the panel, who said that while much of the testimony appeared to implicate the late Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey, he believed the blame would be found to be more widespread.

British originally asked for a ban, but made clear at a European summit in Brussels last month that it would not stand in the way of community partners who wished to resume contacts.

But British officials said London would not renew its own diplomatic relations with Damascus.

East-West relations will also feature in Monday's talks between the foreign ministers. They can expect a report from West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher on his recent visit to Moscow with President Richard Von Weizsaecker.

On the Gulf war, and the growing threat it presents to world shipping in the region, Britain and France will report to the EC foreign ministers on a recent United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

But officials said there was unlikely to be a European initiative over the Gulf, as EC governments were happy to let the United Nations take the lead.



Assad receives Lower House speaker

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad received here on Sunday the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament and president of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU), Mr. Akef Al Fayed, currently on a visit to Syria. Bilateral relations and Arab regional issues were reviewed during the meeting which was headed by speaker of the Syrian People's Council Mahinoud Al Ma'abbi. They also discussed the APU role in defending Arab causes. The meeting was attended by chairman of the Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee Rezq Al Batayneh and chairman of the Lower House Committee for Occupied Territories Dawoud Suleiman. Later Sunday Mr. Fayed met with Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Ra'uf Al Kasm. They discussed bilateral relations and means of boosting them.

CBJ reports on 1986 economic performance

GNP goes up as inflation drops to zero

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Sunday released its annual report, giving details about its operations in 1986 and a general review of the economic, monetary and financial developments in Jordan during the past year.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current and real prices grew by 2.6 per cent in Jordan in the past year against 4.9 per cent in current and 1.9 in real prices in 1985, the report said.

It said that the Gross National Product (GNP) grew in 1986 by 3.7 per cent at current and real prices against a decline of 0.3 per cent in current and 3.2 per cent in real prices in the previous year.

The report attributed the improvement in the GNP growth rate to an increase in the activities of the industrial sector and such sectors as energy, water, finance and services, and due to an increase in money transfers by Jordanian expatriates, following

a drop in remittances in 1985.

The report said that the government exerted strenuous efforts during 1986 for stimulating the national economy by offering incentives for investments, supporting local industries and national exports and by curtailing imports and trying to attract investments from Arab and foreign countries.

Despite the positive aspects that resulted from such measures, the report said, Jordan continued to confront a host of negative elements which also affected the Arab region as a whole during 1986, owing to a retreat in Arab economic activity in general, a drop in oil prices in the first half

(Continued on page 3)

Kuwait denies executing bombers

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has denied reports that it secretly carried out death sentences in April on two Iraqis and a Lebanese convicted of involvement in bomb attacks against the French and American embassies in 1983.

An Interior Ministry official told the official Kuwait News Agency KUNA Saturday night that the reports were "absolutely

baseless allegations, sheer concoction and completely false."

The Iranian News Agency IRNA Saturday quoted the weekly organ of the Iraqi Mujahideen opposition group as saying that Hussein Kassem Hassan, Baker Abdul Ridha and Lebanese Elias Fouad Saab had been executed.

A Kuwait security court convicted them and 17 others in March 1984 of complicity in the government in Iraq.

Election date set for late deputy's seat

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai announced Sunday that August 15 will be the date for holding by-elections to fill the vacant seat of the late Saoud Al Oadi, the deputy for the northern Bedouin region. According to the new election law, by-elections will be held in the region between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on that day.

The Lower House and Upper House of Parliament held two separate meetings of their financial committees, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The Senate Committee, chaired by Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, discussed in its meeting an amended draft law controlling the operations of insurance companies in Jordan, a draft law on a loan agreement between the government and a Kuwaiti fund, and another on an oil concession agreement signed recently between the government's Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and Petrofina, a Belgian oil exploration company. The three laws had been passed last week by the House and are awaiting an endorsement by the Senate.

The House Financial Committee meeting, chaired by Deputy Musa Abu Al Raghieb, discussed an audit by the Central Bank of Jordan.

In Ramtha, the committee established to reconsider voters' lists in the governorate held a meeting headed by Governor Khalaf Mahasneh Sunday during which they approved the final voters' list after considering all objections. There were 16,621 voters on the final lists. It will be displayed for ten days in municipal and rural councils in the governorates.

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Syria tops agenda of today's EC meeting

COPENHAGEN (R) — Relations with Syria will top the agenda when European Community (EC) foreign ministers meet in Copenhagen Monday for a day of talks on foreign policy cooperation, community officials said Sunday.

The EC banned high-level diplomatic contacts as part of sanctions imposed on Syria in 1986 for its alleged role in an alleged plot to blow up an Israeli airliner in London.

But several West European governments feel the ban is hindering attempts to break the deadlock in Middle East peace efforts.

Syria is seen as a key factor in the peace equation and as a possible mediator in securing the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon.

The difficulties were highlighted last spring when Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans visited several Middle East countries as president of the EC's council of ministers but was forced to exclude Syria.

Britain originally asked for a ban, but made clear at a European summit in Brussels last month that it would not stand in the way of community partners who wished to resume contacts.

But British officials said London would not renew its own diplomatic relations with Damascus.

East-West relations will also feature in Monday's talks between the foreign ministers. They can expect a report from West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher on his recent visit to Moscow with President Richard Von Weizsaecker.

On the Gulf war, and the growing threat it presents to world shipping in the region, Britain and France will report to the EC foreign ministers on a recent United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

But officials said there was unlikely to be a European initiative over the Gulf, as EC governments were happy to let the United Nations take the lead.

White South African delegation, ANC call for negotiated settlement

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Liberal white South Africans and the banned African National Congress issued a joint communiqué Sunday supporting a negotiated settlement of South Africa's problems and calling for the release of all political prisoners.

The communiqué, released at the end of the three-day meeting in Dakar, said the participants "unanimously expressed preference for a negotiated solution" but "recognised that the attitude of those in power is the principal obstacle to progress."

"It was further accepted that the unconditional release of all political leaders in prison or detention and the unbanning of organisations are fundamental prerequisites for such negotiations to take place," the communiqué said.

Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert, the former leader of the South African opposition Progressive Federal Party, read the joint communiqué to reporters.

Pretoria has refused to talk with the ANC unless it renounces its support for armed struggle. The ANC and other anti-apartheid movements within South Africa say there can be no negotiations without the unbanning of the ANC and the release of its leader, Nelson Mandela, who was jailed in 1964.

Mr. Slabbert led a mostly Afrikaner delegation of 51 white South Africans — a cross-section of politicians, businessmen, farmers, artists and sports figures — to the largest meeting ever between liberal whites and the radical black guerrilla movement.

Mr. Slabbert said he hoped a wider cross-section of South Africans would be involved in future

meetings with the ANC "to dispel the misunderstanding and fear and to reinforce the broad democratic movement."

Democrat leader likens Reagan's Gulf plan with Beirut disaster

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Senator Jim Sasser, speaking for the Democratic Party, has criticised President Ronald Reagan's plan to protect Kuwaiti ships in the Gulf as a provocation to Iran that invited a disaster like the 1983 attack on U.S. Marines in Beirut.

Giving the Democratic response to Mr. Reagan's weekly radio address, Mr. Sasser — one of the most outspoken critics of the president's Gulf plan — said it has absurd to put U.S. flags on 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers while leaving American-owned ships unproTECTED.

Referring to the Iranian gunboat attack this week on a U.S.-owned tanker flying the Liberian flag, he said: "That attack underscores the absurdity of the administration's provocative approach in the Persian Gulf."

"Here we had an attack on an American-owned ship on the high seas, but that ship did not have the protection of the United States navy."

The White House condemned the attack but said there were no plans to retaliate.

The Reagan administration plans to forge ahead with its plan

to put Kuwaiti tankers under U.S. protection despite a House of Representatives vote to delay the action for 90 days.

The Senate is to vote on a similar plan on Tuesday, but it has run into strong Republican opposition.

Mr. Sasser said the White House does not have a policy in the Gulf but rather an "approach" that is "sabre-rattling masquerading as strategic thought."

"I call the administration's plan an approach because it is not a means a policy," he said.

Mr. Sasser said the administration had "symbolism replacing sound planning. We have sabre rattling masquerading as strategic thought."

Reagan officials are staying quiet on the exact date and logistical details of the U.S. escort of 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers through the Gulf.

All that is known is that the

barracks at the Beirut airport. "If the administration forgets the lessons of Beirut, we will be condemned to repeat one of the darkest and most painful moments in recent American history," Mr. Sasser said.

"Let's be clear: nobody is talking about getting out of the Gulf. We've been there since 1949 and we intend to stay. But we are concerned about administration plans to put the American flag on tankers of a foreign government," he said.

House and Senate critics of Mr. Reagan's plan acknowledge it can not stop it going into effect in mid-July.

Democrats have previously said the operation could result in a military confrontation with Iran.

Mr. Sasser said the administration appeared to have learned no lesson from its decision in 1983, opposed by himself and many other Democrats in Congress, to send a contingent of Marines to Beirut.

In October 1983, 241 Americans were killed in a suicide truck-bomb attack on the Marine

escorts are supposed to start sometime in mid-July.

Fighters and E-2 surveillance aircraft from the carrier Constellation flew a training exercise last weekend that reflect plans to provide air cover in the southern Gulf, and navy officials have said they likely will escort the tankers in convoys.

After the tankers load up on oil at the main Kuwaiti port of Al Ahmadi, at the northern end of the Gulf, they are likely to form convoys and be escorted south by about three of the eight American warships there.

Navy officials say three or four warships are needed to form a protective cordon around the tankers.

Four U.S.-owned E-3A airborne warning and control system aircraft based in Saudi Arabia are currently patrolling the northern end of the Gulf, and will be keeping their electronic eyes on the convoy and on Iranian airfields, according to defence officials.

The AWACS tracked the Iraqi F-1 Mirage that fired two missiles at the U.S. frigate Stark on May 17, killing 37 American sailors. But the jets were unable to prevent the attack.

The Hague approves minesweeper deal with Kuwait

THE HAGUE (R) — The Dutch government has authorised a Dutch shipbuilding firm to sell minesweepers to Kuwait amid parliamentary unease on the projected deal.

At issue is the sale of an unspecified number of minesweepers by the Van der Giessen-de Noord shipyard to the Kuwaiti navy, for which the dutch firm is currently preparing a bid.

"The (Dutch) government sees no overriding objections standing in the way of such a sale," a government statement said Saturday.

Under Dutch law, military hardware sales to so-called "regions of tension" are subject to government approval. The Gulf area is such a region.

Ethiopia sees better Arab ties

JEDDAH (AP) — Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh was quoted Sunday as saying his country's "suspicions and misunderstandings" with the Arab World have been lifted, ushering in a new era of political relations.

Mr. Bayeh is in Saudi Arabia to foster relations between Addis Ababa and the kingdom which has so far refrained from establishing diplomatic ties with major communist powers.

In an interview with the English-language newspaper Saudi Gazette, the minister said Addis Ababa was interested in having political rapprochement lead to cooperation with Saudi Arabia.

The paper quoted him as saying that Ethiopia was being towed with natural resources and immense agricultural potential and Saudi Arabia could cooperate in industrial development and mining.

Thirty-nine people, mostly

News leaks reportedly foiled elaborate U.S.-inspired anti-Qadhafi plot in '83

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States, Egypt and Sudan planned a joint bid to entrap Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's forces in 1983, but dropped it because of news leaks, the Washington Post newspaper reported Sunday.

The Post, in a Cairo-dated despatch, quoted sources in Cairo and Washington as saying the idea was to lure Libya into invading Sudanese air space so a quick U.S.-hacked retaliatory strike could be unleashed from Egypt.

The goal was to wipe out as much as one-third of Libya's air force and deter him from any "destabilisation" of his weaker neighbours, the paper said.

The plan called for Sudanese undercover agents, said by the paper to have been acting as a pro-Libyan revolutionary movement in Khartoum, to seek Libyan military intervention to topple the pro-Western government of then President Jaafar Numeiri.

"As soon as Qadhafi took the bait and sent hundreds of his bombers into Sudanese airspace, Egypt's larger air force — guided by U.S. AWACS surveillance planes and fuelled, if necessary, by airborne U.S. tankers — was to launch a counterstrike against the Libyan force," the Post said.

It said the joint operation was conceived and developed by Mr. Numeiri in consultation with U.S. intelligence services, and repre-

sented the earliest known commitment by the Reagan administration to support Egypt secretly in a military confrontation with Libya.

The operation was aborted when news leaked about the movement of the AWACS aircraft to the Middle East and the possible redeployment of an aircraft carrier task force, the Post said. The U.S. television network ABC broke the news of the U.S. military movements.

Despite the news leaks in February 1983, the Post reported, "the covert deception and entrapment entrusted to this racist which is at the core of American hostile dealings against the Arabs Nation for which we do not need distant facts to prove."

General Walters visited Moscow and Peking this week to seek approval of a United Nations resolution to end the Iran-Iraq war.

JANA said that it was "important to reveal the dubious mission carried out by the envoy of the American administration and CIA, Vernon Walters," the ambassador.

The agency continued: "It is our right to ask forcefully: what is this scornful racist and Zionist and anti-Arab is coming to do ... we link him, logically and objectively, to the past dubious missions entrusted to this racist which is at the core of American hostile dealings against the Arabs Nation for which we do not need distant facts to prove."

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JANA said, "the American administration's strategy does not accept less than the control over the Arab Nation ... even those puppets who thought they were faithful agents of the administration have declared on more than one occasion their disappointment in their belief."

It continued: "All Arabs are called on to confront American animosity through an all out boycott of the American administration and its envoys."

The Liyan news agency JANA on Saturday called for an Arab boycott of the U.S. government and its envoys, saying that

Palestinian gets 17 years in jail for Rome attack

ROME (Agencies) — A court on Saturday sentenced a Lebanese-born Palestinian to 17 years jail for a hand-grenade attack on Rome's fashionable Cafe de Paris in which 39 people were injured.

The court, which took six and a half hours to reach its verdict, also ruled that 29-year-old Ahmad Ali Hosseini Abu Sereya should be expelled from Italy once he had completed his sentence.

Abu Sereya was found guilty of throwing two fragmentation grenades into the crowded cafe on Rome's Via Veneto avenue on September 16, 1985. One grenade exploded, but the other was detonated by experts.

Thirty-nine people, mostly

foreign tourists, were injured in the blast.

Abu Sereya was arrested near the cafe immediately after the attack and later charged with attempted massacre and illegal possession of explosives.

The prosecution had accused Abu Sereya of being a member of the Martyrs of Palestine, a group alleged to be linked to Palestinian guerrilla leader Abu Nidal.

The court also fined Abu Sereya two million lire (\$1,500) and ordered him to pay legal costs.

Abu Sereya, who was not present when the decision was announced by the court, had claimed his innocence throughout the trial that began June 10.

The court of assizes has primary jurisdiction over major felonies.

IRAQI-JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT COMPANY TENDER

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Co. invites bids for the supply of the following:

- A. 150 truck-tractors
- B. 150 semi-trailers (general cargo)
- C. 2 truck-tractors (heavy cargo)
- D. 4 low bed semi-trailers (heavy cargo)
- E. 15 semi-trailer/tank (vegetable oil)
- F. 15 semi-trailer (car carriers)

A copy of the tender terms and specifications may be purchased from the company's main offices in Jabal Amman, opposite to the Tunisian embassy for the sum of JD 100 non-refundable.

All offers are to be submitted by 12.00 hours on Saturday Aug. 15, 1987 accompanied by 5% of offer value.

Director General
Eng. Jamil Ibrahim

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian embassy in Amman is looking to purchase or lease a villa suitable for use as the ambassador's residence. Interested parties may contact the Administration Section of the Canadian embassy, Tel. 666124/125/126, Sunday to Thursday 08:30-16:00 hrs. Description should include floor plans, location, photos and price. The house should be within the following specifications: Property size - between 1000-2000 sq.m. Building size - 317 to 472 sq.m. net 418 to 613 sq.m. gross

Note: No brokers, only owners, closing date for receiving offers 20.7.87.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) International Airport at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

10:29 — Larnaca (CY) 10:38 — Damascus (SY) 10:45 — Muscat (OM) 10:45 — Doha (QA) 11:15 — Cairo (EG) 11:25 — Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (BH) 11:28 — New York (NY) 11:30 — Paris (FR) 12:05 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 12:28 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 12:45 — Bahrain, Doha (GF) 13:00 — Kuwait (KU) 13:30 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 14:00 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 14:45 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 15:30 — Kuwait (KU) 16:28 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 16:45 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 17:00 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 17:30 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 18:45 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 19:15 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 19:45 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 20:00 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 20:30 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 21:00 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 21:30 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 22:00 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 22:30 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 23:00 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR) 23:30 — Ankara, Istanbul (TR)

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Club: Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Lions Club: Meetings every second and fourth Tuesday at the American Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Lions Club: Meetings every Wednesday at the Sovic Cultural Centre (until July 16)

CINEMA

* "Le roi et l'oiseau" (for children) at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

FEATURE FILM

* "Revolution" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

LECTURE

* A lecture on "Arab Village Life" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR)

JERASH FESTIVAL (July 8-31)

Monday 13/7/87 * South Theatre: 7:30-8:30 p.m. Jordan Mus. Ass. Singing Group

9:30-11 — Local Play Production — Minaret Al-Shahad Abu-Alfoud

* Sound & Light: 8:30 — Children's Play Amman Amin

* Artemis Steps: 8:30 — Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe

* Forum: 6:30 — Jordan Armed Forces Band 7:30 — W.G. Band & Folk Group 9:30 — China Acrobatic Troupe

Tel. 811293.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jdeideh, Tel. 624930. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jdeideh, Tel. 623440. Anglican Church (Church of the Reformed) Jdeideh, Tel. 625383. Armenian Catholic Church Atrashieh, Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Atrashieh, Tel. 775261. St. Epiphany Church (Syrian Orthodox) Atrashieh, Tel. 771751. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:00 — Aqaba (RJ) 06:00 — Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 12:00 — Tunis (RJ) 12:30 — Paris (RJ) 12:30 — Athens (RJ) 13:15 — Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ) 13:30 — Cairo (RJ) 20:45 — Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 20:45 — Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 21:00 — Jeddah (RJ) 21:15 — Cairo (RJ) 22:00 — Bucharest (RJ)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fine, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Min/max. temp.

Aqaba 18 / 28

Deserts 20 / 34

Jordan Valley 21 / 33

Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228

Amman Civil Defence 198, 199

Civil Defence Bld 271293, 273131

Civil Defence Deir Al-Balah 707325

Civil Defence Deir Al-Balah 707326

Ambulance 193, 751111

Amman downtown fire brigade 193

Scout movement develops responsible youth — Dahiyat

AMMAN (Petra) — The second national conference of scouts and guides in Jordan began Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, with the participation of some 215 scout leaders and guides in the country.

Dr. Dahiyat also called on the scout movement to utilise the potential of youth to contribute to community development.

Participants in the three-day conference are discussing working papers on the present conditions of the scouts movement, on means to deal with its problems, on training programmes, on local community development, and on the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

The conference, Dr. Dahiyat added, is a good opportunity for



Minister of Youth Eid Dahiyat, deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, attends the second national conference of the scout movement and guides held at the Royal Cultural Centre on Sunday. Later, Dr. Dahiyat addressed the conference, stressing the need to encourage responsible and self-reliant young people in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

Panel examines ways to lessen earthquake damage

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-day symposium on reducing the effects of earthquakes in Jordan resumed Sunday with lectures on the earthquake zones in Jordan.

Lecturers, from many countries including Jordan, also outlined means of designing earthquake-resistant structures, bridges and dams.

The symposium, which opened Saturday, has been organised by the Ministry of Planning in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Attending the meetings are engineers, technicians and personnel from the Ministries of Planning, Energy and Mineral Resources, Public Works, Municipal and Rural Affairs, the Natural Resources Authority, the Royal



JERASH FESTIVAL
of Culture & Arts
3-11 July, 1987

Black Forest band serves slice of Germany

By Peter Baratta
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — From a small village nestled in West Germany's Black Forest comes one of the most tradition-steeped groups to perform at this year's Jerash Festival.

Sporting festive costumes and performing folklore dances to the sounds of brass horns and drums, the 53-member Musical Association of Bernau are scheduled to play at the Forum tonight, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

The history of most musical associations in Germany date back to the post-1848 revolution period, when people wanted to assemble into social, non-political organisations, of which musical groups were among the most popular, said Mrs. Carola Mueller-Holtkemper, press and culture secretary at the West German embassy.

Mrs. Mueller-Holtkemper said it is common for each town and village in West Germany to have at least one musical group that meets regularly to practise and socialise together. "This is part of the community life," she said.

The groups, whose costumes and performances differ in each



The State of Kuwait, Ministry of Public Works is offering a number of positions to highly qualified architects, engineers and other professionals. Candidates will be required to meet, as a minimum, the requirements listed below. Command of the English language, both written and verbal, is mandatory; previous Middle East experience is preferable.

ARCHITECTURAL AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL CANDIDATES

Candidates should have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree, Masters preferable, together with current professional registration and a mini-

STATE OF KUWAIT



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اعلان توظيف

imum of 15 years experience, in one of the following disciplines:

Architecture: public/private projects involving the design and construction of hospitals, schools, commercial and public buildings.

Landscape Architecture: All phases of landscape design, development and construction supervision of various projects.

Landscape Irrigation: All phases of design, development and construction supervision. In depth knowledge of pumping facilities and reservoirs required.

Urban Planning: Urban design and site master planning; master planning of new town development including coordination of public utilities and services.

ENGINEERING CANDIDATES

Candidates should have a minimum of a Bachelor of Science degree, Masters preferable, together with current professional registration and a minimum of 15 years experience, in one of the following disciplines:

Traffic Engineering: Expertise in transportation planning, traffic analysis, signalization; the design of major parking structures.

Highway Design: All phases of motorway and limited access highway design and specification preparation.

Highway Construction: Supervision of motorways and limited access highways, in both urban and open locations.

Highway Maintenance: Highway engineer experienced in developing work programs and budgets for maintenance of highways and bridges.

Bridge Engineering: The design, construction and maintenance of reinforced concrete and steel bridge structures with a background in corrosion control.

Electrical Engineering: Experienced in all aspects of the design, costing and construction of lighting and power supply systems for use in major public building projects.

Heating, Ventilation, Air Con-

ditioning (HVAC): All aspects of the design, costing and construction of systems for use in major public building projects in arid regions.

Scheduling: Experienced in construction management with (CPM) background. Familiarity with micro computer based software programs for example Artemis, Promis, Primavera, etc. Knowledge of cost control methods, scheduling and report Generation.

Quantity Surveying: Familiarity with the element method, Unit-mat and the square meter method of estimating; the 16 divisional Master-format specification method; preparation and of bills of Quantities, material take off method and budgeting procedures. Experience in the use of micro computers preferable. Professional certificate or member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors is mandatory.

PROFESSIONALS SPECIALISTS

Candidates should have a minimum of a Bachelor of Science or Arts degree, in addition to exper-

ience in one of the following disciplines:

Claims Specialist: All technical, administrative and legal experience necessary for the analysis and settlement of consultant's and contractor's claims, including experience of international arbitration.

Computer Systems Analyst: 15 years experience with working knowledge of computer languages: Assembler, Fortran-77, dbase 3+, DB2 Pascal, Cobol and macros on mainframe, mini and micro computer. Experienced in the development and implementation of computerized systems for administrative and engineering purposes.

Computer programmer: 8 years experience in programming. Working knowledge of the above mentioned computer languages/systems.

Horticulture: 12 years experience in ornamental Horticulture. Knowledge of arid, semi arid and tropical plant propagation and maintenance. In-depth knowledge of soil, water, disease control and nutrient requirements.

General

Candidates selected will be self-starters, capable of analyzing situations in a professional manner and able to make clear and concise presentations. All positions are offered on the basis of an all inclusive gross salary. Candidates will be expected to provide their own transport, housing, furniture, etc. Actual salaries shall be determined according to qualifications, length and type of experience. A two year contract will be offered initially on the basis of a 40 hour week with 30 working days leave per year.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resumes, copies of university degrees and a summary of completed projects. They should also indicate their expected salary and when they would be available to commence work. Selected candidates will be required to submit within three months of employment certified copies of University degrees, and letters from former employers. Failure to comply with the aforementioned requirements will render all offers null and void.

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الرقم: ٣٠٧١٩٨٧

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A stab in the back

AFTER seven months of clinging to the fifth amendment of the U.S. constitution privilege against self-incrimination and refusing to disclose the inner secrets of the Iran-contra affair, Marine Lieutenant Oliver North finally spilled the beans and spelled out some startling revelations after securing limited immunity from the U.S. congressional investigative committees. What Col. North has unfolded before the congressional committees has confirmed what has been suggested by others, namely, Israel and Israeli agents were the pivotal actors in the whole Iran-contra affair. In the process, Israel disregarded and damaged U.S. interests, compromised its integrity and credibility among the Arab countries and allowed Israel to reap maximum benefit from everyone involved. A key figure in the arms deals, Manucher Ghorbanifar, turned out to be an Israeli agent wearing the cloak of an Iranian businessman. With Amiram Nir, the counterterrorism adviser to the then prime minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, Mr. Ghorbanifar connived and conspired to persuade the U.S. intelligence network and the U.S. National Security Council to sell arms to Iran; first, under the pretext of securing the release of U.S. hostages and the cultivation of relations with moderate elements in Iran, then, in a last ditch inducement, as a way to fund the contra rebels in Nicaragua by diverting money from the arms sales.

There is no doubt in our minds that the Israeli national interests were always served by supplying the Iranian war machine to fuel the Gulf war and create a permanent wedge between Iran and the Arab World. And as long as the Gulf war continues, Arab blood and resources will continue to be wasted. That is exactly what Israel was and is aiming at. That is why it enticed Col. North, and the entire U.S. administration, in its web and exploited their zealous lust for covert operations to serve Israeli interests.

However, this does not exonerate the U.S. administration from its responsibility. The Reagan administration allowed itself to be dragged into the scheme fully aware of its potentially grave consequences to the Arab World. But, officials in Washington were blinded by their obsession of containing "the Soviet threat," leading them to completely disregarded the interests of Arab friends and allies. This blatant disregard for Arab concerns is both shocking and unacceptable.

The whole affair has cast serious doubts on the U.S. administration's ability and readiness to assume its potential role as a mediator in the region's conflict, especially in efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement for the Palestinian question. For how can we believe that the U.S. is serious about peace when it has been so willing to join hands with Israel on so many occasions, this being the latest and most blatant. Arab leaders, including some of America's best allies, have repeatedly said that the U.S. administration was losing its credibility in the region. This warning, however, has evidently fallen on deaf ears in Washington. The dangerous implications of the latest revelations are that the U.S. has lost its credibility not only as an honest broker in the region but also as a trusted ally to friendly Arab states. From our perspective, the Iran-contra affair was, and is, a stab in the back.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hoping for a miracle

WE follow with great interest and hope a tour by Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi in Arab states and his talks with government leaders designed to bring about solidarity among Arab countries. The talks aim at ending the Gulf war and also at convening an Arab summit meeting that has been postponed for so many times and for so long. It is clear that these issues are placed at the top of a list of priorities for Arab countries, and therefore achieving a headway in their direction is necessary for the Arabs who together face common threats. It should be emphasised that the time factor is important here, and the national responsibility makes it incumbent upon Arab leaders to take speedy and joint action for the sake of safeguarding their nation's interests. They should take the initiative now if they are concerned over regaining their usurped lands and rights, and building genuine peace in the Middle East. Klibi's current mission deserves all support and backing by all Arab states; and if it proves successful, that will be an indicator that Arab leaderships have finally realised the importance of the time factor that they should work faster for their present and their future. No one doubts that the Arab countries possess vast potentials which they can use in the defence of their nation; but this hinges on the condition of joining hands and working in complete solidarity. Klibi's mission does not require a miracle for achieving success, but it rather calls for genuine and serious efforts that can bring about joint Arab military, economic and political action, capable of regaining lost Arab lands.

Al Dustour: Lebanon's bitter harvest

PERHAPS one of the ugliest and most devastating consequences of the Lebanese civil war is the continuous aggravation of the economic situation in the country. The cost of living and the basic and essential things for life are far above the income of hundreds of thousands of ordinary people in Lebanon in view of the continuing down fall of the Lebanese pound. Lebanon is now at the mercy of foreign markets from which it imports nearly 80 per cent of its needs, and the collapse of the national currency makes the situation for that country looks like a total disaster. The ordinary citizens of Lebanon who have suffered for so long from the civil war are now confronting an economic catastrophe and facing the spiralling cost of living with real despair. In fact, the tragedy the Lebanese people are living through at the moment should serve as a common denominator for uniting all factions and parties in the face of the common danger. But it is rather unlikely that the leaders of the various warring groups in Lebanon will benefit from this lesson, but will go on bringing in one disaster after another to their countrymen and their nation. It is only in the interest of those who are exploiting the Lebanese tragedy that the situation should continue and the Lebanese people should be left rotting in the dark tunnel.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iraq's sound strategy pays

IRAQ'S success in liberating parts of Majnoon islands after three years of Iranian occupation opens up wide prospects for Iraq to liberate other parts of Iraqi territory that have fallen into the hands of the Iranian enemy. The success of the Iraqis in this endeavour proves the sound strategy of the Iraqi leadership and its handling of the Gulf conflict. Not it will not be late for the Iraqis to free the Fao island which is in the hands of the Iranian forces. Majnoon islands fell to the Iranians in March 1984, but the Iraqis chose to wait and to move in the right time and place to liberate these lands. This Iraqi victory is cause for our great joy and it is a moment for the Arabs to reflect upon this success and aspire for more successes and a final victory which would soon witness an end to the Gulf conflict that has been raging for nearly seven years. The Iranians rejoiced in 1984 upon occupying Majnoon islands, but this victory and the liberation of these islands is sufficient proof that the Iranian regime is slowly and gradually approaching the end of their adventure and paying the price for their intransigence and persistence in continuing a losing war.

In search for peace: Israelis need consensus, Arabs alternatives

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

THE clear message that I have received during my recent visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank was that the Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is way out on the limb in his highly personalised approach to the principle of convening an international peace conference on the Palestinian conflict. In passionately holding the torch for such a conference and making negotiation with the Arab parties under the U.N. auspices his personal crusade within and without Israel, Mr. Peres's style and motivation have become a suspect in the eyes of the Israeli beholders. There are even whispers in the corridors of Israeli politics that political and personal frictions are brewing between Mr. Peres and his closest supporters including Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin over his alleged manipulation of events and personalities ostensibly to redeem the conference idea when in fact, so his new foes maintain, his primary goal and aspiration is to cling to power. Of course, there are no sure ways to determine the accuracy of such charges levelled against Mr. Peres by even the key members of the Labour Party over which he is the incumbent leader. Yet recent news reports emanating from Israel corroborate my reading of the political scene in Israel. These reports speak of Mr. Peres's declining popularity in Israel and question his ability to hold on to the post of the leader of the Labour Party, much longer. His failure to force national elections on the issue of the Middle East peace conference is often cited as proof of his fading popularity. Other news reports suggest that time for the peace conference is fast running out and that unless Mr. Peres can ignite wider interest in the conference idea among the Israelis, the idea will remain in limbo until after the U.S. and Israeli elections in 1988. This is not to mention Mr. Peres's problems and confrontations with Mr. Shamir, the Israeli prime minister and leader of the Likud.

If in fact Mr. Peres is losing much of his clout within his Labour Party and within the Israeli electorate at large, the implications of

such development on the idea of holding a conference on the Palestinian conflict is too clear to ignore. There is no denying that if Mr. Peres's political fortunes crash-land in Israel, so could be the fate of the projected conference. We cannot expect much support to the conference principle from the Likud whose incumbent leader just reiterated as recently as July 5 of this year that the "proposal (to convene such a conference) is non-existent as far as the Israeli government is concerned." How much tears would the Israeli people shed should the conference idea become stillborn has thus become legitimate concern. What then is the fate of the peace process and its current vehicle, i.e., the international conference idea, is uppermost question on the minds of the Arab side.

Throughout my visit days and nights across the River Jordan I detected and deduced that there is now a leadership crisis in Israel which could emerge to become the principal obstacle to the on-going process of peace. The consensus among knowledgeable observers on the other side of the fence is that Israel lacks now a leader who enjoys the stature and charisma to lead his people to peace. At the present, I was often told, there is no Israeli leader who can "deliver" on any of the current Israeli offers of peace with the Arab parties. Meanwhile potential leaders of the Likud like Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon are still suggesting that "facts should be created" in the West Bank to deliberately counter and frustrate efforts by Mr. Peres to arrange an international Middle East peace conference and in order to "dispel any doubt" about the future of the (occupied) territories. The recent decision by Defence Minister Rabin to pump some 20 million cubic metres of water annually from the West Bank must be seen also in this vein and context. Needless to remind, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin is a key member of the Labour Party which professes solid support to the conference idea.

The upshot of all these observations is not to abandon hope and

foresake the conference idea. Rather it is an invitation to our policy-makers to persevere in their determination to hold the conference as soon as possible yet at the same to start thinking of contingency plans should the international community's call for the conference come to naught. Wise statesmanship requires that we do not put "all our eggs in one basket." Careful scrutiny of the "cards" in the hands of the Arab side would readily reveal that our people in the occupied territories constitute our strongest asset which could be mobilised and played in the most effective manner in order to extricate honourable terms for peace with Israel. To do so, we need to embark on new, bold, and imaginative bridge-building with our people across the current cease-fire lines. Meaningful and bonafide dialogue with them on the grass roots level could serve as the foundation for futuristic and sound bridge-construction between the East and West Banks of Jordan. After twenty years of separation between the Arab people of the West Bank on one hand and the Arab World on the other, there developed a tremendous gap between the two sides on more than one level and in more than one dimension. Much enlightened and innovative work needs to be undertaken in order to rectify the separation syndrome which has engulfed our people across the Jordan River. On many occasions one bears the stereotyped comment often made in the West Bank to the effect that they are in "one valley" and the Arab World is in "another." Accurate feed-back information about their state of mind and national mood is urgently needed in order to proceed on the right track in our collective endeavours to consolidate the links and ties with them and their lands. Archaic methods obviously need to be abandoned and replaced with sophisticated and up to date avenues to ensure proper, sound and truthful communications. Should we succeed in such efforts, the cause of peace would be greatly enhanced, whether or not the projected peace conference ever takes place.

A voice of hope and moderation

The following is the full-text of an interview that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan granted to the Canadian magazine Maclean's during his visit to Canada in early June

Maclean's: Although Peres and the Labour half of the Israeli coalition want a peace conference, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Likud element are adamantly opposed. In view of that, are hopes for peace talks realistic?

Prince Hassan: (The position) of half the Israeli cabinet and almost half the Knesset members on an international conference is a clear indication of a change of mood — a great step forward in itself. But getting the borse to drink is not uniquely an Israeli responsibility, nor a Jordanian responsibility. We need the understanding and support of the international community. The importance of the Peres initiative is that it carries a rippling of deep support among

Jewish communities in North America. A dialogue with the Soviet Union is another new feature. The recognition by Peres that the conference can legitimise a peace process through the presence of the five Security Council members is an extremely valuable contribution. But the difficulty is that resolving the Palestine question cannot be a sustained effort unless we desensitise the Lebanon and the Gulf issue. The spoiling effect of these related zones of instability would be too difficult and too delicate to handle. I think we are fairly upbeat at the present time, but that cannot last long.

Maclean's: What are the chances of bringing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) into peace talks within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

Prince Hassan: The (recent session of the) Palestine National Council in Algiers deliberately left the question of the peace conference open. The 1985 accord between Jordan and the

PLO, which was suspended by the council, is still a workable formula — that is to say Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation. But I think the chances of any of this being realised lie very much with the collective will of all the parties and in particular the Security Council members.

Maclean's: Does Jordan still recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?

Prince Hassan: We recognise the 1974 Arab summit resolution on the issue. If — and it is an iffy situation — the PLO ceased to represent (the Palestinians) within the context of Arab politics, then the question of Palestinian representation would take a new form.

Maclean's: Would you then take non-PLO Palestinians into a joint delegation?

Prince Hassan: I think it is premature to talk of plans. We have always said that this is an in-house affair and should remain

so. If I were to comment, it would give the impression that we have some sort of God-given right to pick and choose. The situation is so desperate that the constants have to remain just that. Jordan is interested in the separation of the land (from Israeli occupation) and interested in giving the Palestinian people the right of free choice.

Maclean's: To reunite the PLO, its leader, Yasser Arafat, joined

with the more radical factions in Algiers. How could it be turned around now and recognise Israel? Prince Hassan: His tactical flexibility is well known. Both the left and the centre of the PLO are agreed on this formula (for an international conference). The interesting element in it is the intention of the PLO leadership to open dialogue with Jordan, Syria and Egypt. Again, the common ground in such a dialogue would be the international conference, and the outer layer of the onion is the role of the super-powers. So, if unanimity can be developed among the regional players, the PLO will have an adequate face-saving formula to make a new about-face.

Maclean's: A recent West Bank poll indicates that the vast majority there supports the PLO and rejects Jordanian rule. How does that affect your position?

Prince Hassan: We are not in the popularity stakes. If it were only three per cent, I couldn't care less. The main thing is to main-

tain Arab identity in the occupied territory — to liberate those territories and to give the Palestinians the right of free choice. In physical terms — as was clearly stated in the 1985 accord (for joint negotiation by Jordan and the PLO) — a confederation is the only formula acceptable to Jordan and, in fact, to the PLO. And it does not defy human ingenuity to look at the various special-status arrangements — which even you in Canada have — in finessing the final outcome. Public opinion is very volatile.

Maclean's: It is widely believed that Jordan has as much to fear as Israel from an independent Palestinian state.

Prince Hassan: What we are concerned about is the viability of an independent state. Statehood is not a question of symbolism, it is a question of substance — particularly if we are to talk about stable statehood — and that reality is our concern, as is the question of Palestinian refugees and the price of peace.

Pakistan's General Zia has cash-flow problems

John Elliott, recently in Pakistan's capital of Islamabad, looks at that country's fragile economy, which somehow always manages to stay afloat.

TEN years after Gen. Zia Ul Haq, president of Pakistan, seized power in a military coup 10 years ago, President Zia avoided any blame for the embarrassing fiasco and stayed in the background. It was Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo, prime minister, who took the flak and withdrew the proposals within four days, rapidly producing a slightly smaller alternative for the original 175 billion-ruppee (\$10.06 billion) budget.

Faced with a need for higher government revenues and lower spending, Mr. Junejo is doing a penance.

He and other ministers and officials are ostentatiously driving around in small cars and are forgoing first-class airline seats. There are also other economies, all of which however scarcely skim the surface of Pakistan's under-funded over-spending which produced an annual budget deficit in 1986-87 of Rs45 billion, 8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Perhaps significantly for a country which has been under direct or indirect military rule for 10 years, it was the imposition of a "defence tax" which caused the outcry. This was a cumulative 5 per cent surcharge on imports, excise duty and income tax, which would ultimately boost prices of some goods by more than 15 per cent. Retail prices, including bottles of soft drinks on a day when temperatures were above 100F, immediately soared by up to 30 per cent or more — and street protests began.

Defence, boosted by demand for cotton, are rising this year by 17 to 18 per cent and imports are declining at about 7 per cent. But this could change dramatically next year, possibly with export growth falling to 5 per cent. A new three-year trade policy was announced recently in an attempt to sustain the improvements.

The defence surcharge was a desperate attempt by bureaucrats to deal with the country's serious problem of resource mobilisation. Its aim was to raise substantial funds within an extremely narrow tax base, which is not being reformed for political expediency, and a corrupt collection system.

Pakistan's other major indicators are buoyant. There is sustained economic growth at 6-6.5 per cent, although this might be hit by recent rains harming the crucial wheat crop. Inflation until the budget was only 4.5 to 5 per cent. Exports, boosted by demand for cotton, are rising this year by 17 to 18 per cent and imports are declining at about 7 per cent. But this could change dramatically next year, possibly with export growth falling to 5 per cent. A new three-year trade policy was announced recently in an attempt to sustain the improvements.

The Pakistan economy, heavily supported by U.S. aid, puzzles many observers, including economists. "Every time you look at it, it's OK, but there are always basic things wrong and dangers ahead, emphasising its fragility. But these things never actually bring it down," says one international observer.

The World Bank's annual review recently described the economy as structurally weak in the short term. It cited increasing concentration of exports in limited areas such as textiles, a growing foreign debt-service ratio at 21 per cent and fragile balance of payments — a current account deficit amounting to a record 5 per cent of GNP in 1984-85 and 3.1 per cent last year.

Remittances from Pakistanis working overseas are causing concern after a decline in Middle East oil prices. Remittances act as a driving force for demand in the economy, as well as being a major contributor to the balance of payments, but are falling by 10-12 per cent or more a year. This year, they total about \$2.3 billion, which could fall as low as \$1.5 billion, according to some government economists, before recovering.

In the medium term, there are other problems. Pakistan's population of 99.2 million is

growing at 3.1 per cent, faster even than nearby Bangladesh, and one of the highest rates in the world. Literacy is low at about 6 per cent, with a dearth of primary education.

Most serious of all is the growing deficit, up to 8 per cent of GDP this year from 5 per cent in 1981-82, and causing growing domestic and foreign debt problems.

Domestic savings, in a consumer-oriented country with no cultural tradition in saving, amount to only 14 per cent of GDP. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund estimate 16 to 20 per cent is needed. Neighbouring India and China achieve 23 and 25 per cent.

Only about 1 per cent of the population is in the tax net and tax collection has been stagnant at 13 per cent of GNP for 20 years.

— Financial Times feature.

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AIDS cure seeker caught in the crossfire

The Wellcome Foundation, manufacturer of the drug Retrovir which is helping to fight AIDS, has been hurt by accusations of greed and profiteering. Tony Jackson talked to Alfred Sheppard, the firm's chairman.

LONDON — Mr. Alfred Sheppard, chairman of the Wellcome Foundation, is in charge of the only drug available against the killer disease acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). It is a gratifying position, but it puts him in the crossfire.

Retrovir, otherwise known as AZT, is not only the single hope for AIDS sufferers, it is also exceedingly expensive, at around \$8,000 for a year's treatment. These two facts have inevitably prompted charges of greed and profiteering, with the hostility strongest in the U.S., where by far the bulk of the drug is sold.

Mr. Sheppard is deeply sensitive to the charge, but finds it hard to refute. To argue the case publicly would mean going into details of costs and pricing which are traditionally so sensitive for

the drug industry that the company cannot bring itself to break its habit of secrecy.

It seems, however, that profit margins on the drug are if anything lower than some others in the Wellcome portfolio. Zovirax, for instance, Wellcome's biggest-selling product and the only drug available against herpes, costs roughly the same as Retrovir, unit for unit. But Retrovir, with a very complex, 16-stage manufacturing process, is the more expensive drug to make.

Talking to Mr. Sheppard, one also forms the suspicion that the pricing of Retrovir was in practice so difficult as to be almost a shot in the dark.

Mr. Sheppard begins with the conventional arguments of the drug industry: That only one candidate drug in 10,000 makes it

Near-misses heighten fears of aviation disaster

By Irwin Arieff
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Two near-collisions of passenger jets over the Atlantic Ocean within 24 hours last week have heightened fears of an aviation disaster during the peak summer travel season.

But federal air safety regulators say the near-misses, though worrisome, do not mean that the skies over the United States are unsafe.

"Near-midair collision reports are a serious matter, but they are being made into an index of safety that they never were in the past," said an official of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which operates the U.S. air traffic control system.

"A much better indicator is the accident rate, which has been on the decline over the past 10 years," said the official, who asked anonymity.

A Delta Airlines wide-body Lockheed jet drifted 100 km off course en route to Cincinnati from London on July 8 and nearly collided with a Continental Boeing jumbo jet heading to Newark, N.J., from London.

The Delta flight came close enough — 30 metres — for passengers aboard the Continental aircraft to read its markings. Two other commercial airliners were in the area at the time, and a Continental spokesman has said that the other pilots urged the pilot not to report the incident.

"There were several requests and each time, our crew adamantly refused," said the spokesman, Bruce Hicks.

Hicks said he was not certain who raised the possibility of a cover-up but the Washington Post reported it was first suggested by the Delta crew.

"Our guys said, 'of course we're going to report it. There's no question of that,'" Hicks said.

On July 9, a Pan American World Airways Airbus A-310 and a Viasa Venezuelan DC-10 jet flying in opposite directions came within a quarter mile of each other at the same altitude about 1,400 kms south of New York City, federal officials said.

Both incidents are under investigation by officials of the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), a government watchdog agency that studies transportation accidents and issues safety improvement recommendations.

Both agencies said they would not comment on their respective probes until they were com-

pleted.

The Delta-Continental near-miss is also being probed by the Canadian Aviation Safety Board since it took place in air space under the jurisdiction of air traffic controllers in Gander, Newfoundland.

Also troubling to air travellers was last week's finding by the NTSB that a 1986 mid-air collision between an Aeromexico DC-9 and a small private airplane was due primarily to inadequacies in the U.S. air traffic control system.

That accident, which occurred over Cerritos, California, as the DC-9 approached the Los Angeles airport for a landing, killed 82 people, including 64 passengers and crew aboard the DC-9, three people in the private aircraft and 15 on the ground.

The accident occurred because the private plane wandered into the restricted airspace around the Los Angeles air terminal, the safety board said. The board concluded that the small plane was never seen by the DC-9 pilot in command and 15 on the ground.

The watchdog agency put much of the blame on an FAA policy that pilots flying in clear weather are expected to avoid midair crashes simply by looking out their cockpit windows and avoiding any aircraft they see headed toward them.

The NTSB called earlier this year for a ceiling on air traffic this summer.

Citing soaring air traffic levels, a growing number of controller errors and the increasing incidence of near-midair collisions in recent months, the safety board said it feared the result would be a catastrophic airline accident.

But the FAA responded that a ceiling was unnecessary. It said it would deal with over crowding in the skies on a case-by-case basis as it occurred.

FAA officials point out that most near midair collisions do not pose an immediate hazard to either plane and typically involve military and small private aircraft rather than commercial airliners.

"They create a vivid image in the public's mind, but they commonly involve safe distances with no danger," one official said.

According to FAA statistics, 494 near mid-air collision reports had been filed with the agency as of June 30.

About 20 per cent of these involved a "critical" hazard while 55 per cent involved a "potential" hazard and the remaining 25 per cent involved "no hazard" the FAA said.

Period of limbo

There was a time when the wisdom of being involved in water projects was questioned. After installation, water systems often broke down and were left neglected by communities insufficiently

equipped to maintain them.

Now the world's present

military budgets run to a total

over \$1,000 billion every single

year — there is still a

tremendous waste there," Mr. Beyer reasons, "if you compare it to that, then it's peanuts what we are talking about."

"In the last few years, global

expenditure on water has been up

to \$10-12 billion annually. The

annual increase we will need is

about 50 per cent of the present

input, from a funding point of

view."

"But it's not only the work

saved that is important," Mr. Beyer says. "It's energy expenditure, too. Half of their caloric intake was spent on fetching water. So you see, malnutrition is connected with water, too."

"Water is also only one factor

in public health. Personal hygiene

is also important."

Abidjan Declaration

If such funds were made available, the world is in the best

position ever to take advantage of it, thanks primarily to two recent developments. The first was the

adoption last October of the

Abidjan Declaration at the close

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Randa Habib's Corner

Ignorant love

YOU must have seen them with happy smiles on their faces, and with their babies on the knees! Well, what is wrong with that, you may ask? Nothing, except that the babies in question are sitting on their father's knees — behind the steering.

The mother is also in the car, and other members of the family too. They all look happy, enjoying the afternoon drive. But also and mostly enjoying the site of the dearest and youngest acting as a driver.

Mother is very happy when her little boy starts honking, and the little brother and sister, in the back seat jump in joy and encourage their little baby-brother to act as a real driver. The little one grabs the steering with both hands, and often also with his mouth, while daddy is so proud that all the passengers and other drivers notice it and smile. The expression on his face tells it clearly: That's my boy, he is only 14 months old, and he is already a driver.

The problem is that this ignorant exercise is very dangerous to the child both physically and mentally. First, it diverts the father's attention from driving, thus increasing the probability of accidents. Second, it is very dangerous for the child in case of accident; he would be crushed between his father's chest and the wheel. And third, the whole exercise is lesson in bad-driving manners for children to emulate.

What makes us furious, however, is that traffic wardens who enforce the use of seatbelts and other traffic regulations seem not to bother about such dangerous acts of nonsense. Such bad habits should not be allowed to grow roots in our society. Educators, the media and concerned authorities and societies should combat them persistently.

London's Fleet Street changing hands

By Michael West
The Associated Press

immediate Fleet Street area, only Robert Maxwell's Mirror group in Holborn — publishers of The Daily Mirror and The Sunday People — has not announced plans to move.

After years in the doldrums because of high costs, strikes and refusal by the once powerful Fleet Street print production unions to accept modern, cost-cutting computerised printing methods because of job-loss fears, national newspapers are mostly prospering again.

The result is a fierce circulation war amongst 13 national morning dailies and 10 national weeklies on sale each Sunday, while Londoners have a choice of three evening papers.

Murdoch broke the Fleet Street log-jam last year when he moved his four daily and Sunday titles to Wapping in East London. He fired 5,500 print production workers when they went on strike against the move and used electricians to produce his papers.

The Times of London, its weekly stablemate The Sunday Times, and the daily tabloid The Sun and the weekly News of The World, all owned by publisher Rupert Murdoch, set up in the east and Docklands area in January 1986.

The Telegraph journalists put the paper together for the last time in the Fleet Street building on July 11, then marked their departure with cake and ale at the King and Keys tavern, a favourite Fleet Street watering hole next door.

The Daily Telegraph, which has a daily circulation of 1.15 million, was founded in 1855. It has been produced from premises on its current site since 1860, but the imposing Daily Telegraph building on the site, which has been bought by an American investment bank, Goldman Sachs, dates from 1930.

United Newspapers Plc, publishers of The Daily Express, The Star and The Sunday Express, announced July 2 that it plans to leave Fleet Street, and move to a new plant on the south side of the River Thames in about two years' time.

Lord Stevens, the chairman of United Newspapers, said the move would entail the loss of 2,500 jobs. The group fired 2,000 staff last year. The Express's celebrated back glass and chrome building in Fleet Street is to be sold with a reported price tag of £75 million (\$120 million).

Of the papers with plants in the

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Water: Where it is, where it's headed

AS the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade draws to its close in 1990, it is becoming obvious that its ambitious goal of providing water and sanitation to every person on the globe will not be reached. Presently, somewhat incomplete statistics from WHO indicate that 75 per cent of urban areas and 40 per cent of rural areas have been provided with safe drinking water, and that 50 per cent of urban areas and 15 per cent of rural areas have been provided with adequate sanitation.

At the same time, UNICEF launched child survival strategies that were simpler to communicate, cheaper to institute, and easier to justify publicly. Lasting results in water and sanitation might take half a generation to witness, as so much of positive change is behavioural. But an immunized child is immediately freed from the threat of certain death.

"Frankly, I was afraid that with the laudable but somewhat impetuous approach of UNICEF to child survival, that we would throw the baby out with the bathwater," Mr. Beyer says. "In fact, I had the feeling that our own management up to very recently went very much after principles that confused strategies with statistics."

"But I think better counsel is prevailing. One thing that has helped ease us over this period of limbo is that we are now coming to a much more balanced view, partly under pressure from the field."

UNICEF currently deploys 140 programme offices in some 45 countries who work to provide water and sanitation. Annually, UNICEF spends \$60 million, or roughly 20 per cent of its programme expenditure, on water and sanitation.

"The absolute figures don't matter so much. It matters what you do with the money," Mr. Beyer says. "If you spread \$60 million over almost 100 countries, it is not that much, really."

Radical impact

Yet the provision of clean water can have a radical impact on the health and well-being of mothers and children, as a study in the Sudan has shown. In Bahar Al Ghazal, an area that receives very little rainfall, women spent six hours of their work day alone in collecting water. With the installation of a UNICEF supported water supply system, the women there were able to have two hours a day of their own to rest.

"In the last few years, global expenditure on water has been up to \$10-12 billion annually. The annual increase we will need is about 50 per cent of the present

input, from a funding point of view."

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Argentina fades away in S. American Cup mist

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (Agencies) — Colombia posted a 2-1 victory over 1986 World Cup titleholder Argentina on Saturday to win third place in the Americas Cup Soccer Tournament.

Colombia fought a determined rearguard action in thickening mist to hold onto a first-half lead and beat the world champions.

Defending Americas Cup champion Uruguay was meeting Chile for the championship on late Sunday. Uruguay had defeated Argentina 1-0 in the semifinals Thursday, while Chile downed Colombia 2-1 in overtime on Wednesday.

Playing before only 5,000 fans in heavy fog at River Plate Stadium, the Colombians built a commanding 2-0 lead on first-half goals by Gabriel Gomez and Juan Galeano.

Argentina's lone goal came at 41 minutes of the second period

by Claudio Caniggia.

The Americas Cup, played since 1917, matched national soccer teams from 10 South American countries.

Valderrama, a talented mid-fielder with a deceptively languid style, set up Colombia's second goal 20 minutes later, neatly lobbing the ball over the defence to the unmarked Juan Galeano, who ran through to score from close range.

Colombia, who had never beaten Argentina before in South American Cup games, had little trouble thwarting an ineffective Argentine attack made weaker by an only half-fit Diego Maradona.

The Colombians, arguably the most exciting team in the tournament with their neat, quick-passing game, shocked Argentina by taking the lead from their first attack after only eight minutes.

Goalkeeper Luis Islas was slow to react to a dipping shot from outside the penalty area by strik-

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Maradona showed some flashes of the skill that made him the star of last year's World Cup but he was slow with his best chance in the 15th minute and goalkeeper Rene Higuita leapt to take the ball at his feet.

Argentina improved with two changes at halftime and spent most of the rest of the match attacking.

They were unlucky when substitute Funes' 48th minute shot hit a post but then faded away in front of a meagre fans in the 75,000-capacity stadium as a thick mist descended, reducing visibility from the stands and press box to almost zero.

Maradona finally laid on Argentina's consolation goal for young striker Claudio Caniggia, who headed home his curling corner kick four minutes from time.

Aouita, Cram to star in Nice

NICE, France (R) — Said Aouita and Steve Cram, heroes of an epic world record duel here two years ago, return to the French Riviera on Monday though they will stay out of each other's way on the track.

The two middle-distance rivals are among 10 world record-holders competing in the Nice Grand Prix meeting, a total reduced by the withdrawal of injured pole vault world champion Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union.

World 1,500 metres champion Cram, who pulled out of last Friday's London Grand Prix, resumes competition in the 800 metres, while Moroccan Aouita opts for the mile, in which the Briton holds the world record.

Cram pipped the fast-finishing Aouita by 0.04 seconds to take the world 1,500 metres mark below 3½ minutes in an enthralling race at this 'Nikia' meeting two years ago. Aouita, however, is the current holder.

Aouita, Olympic champion over 5,000 metres, races against Spain's Jose-Luis Gonzalez, who beat Cram in the European Cup and won Friday's 1,500 metres in London in the absence of the Briton.

But the organisers said Olympic 800 metres champion Joaquin Cruz of Brazil had pulled out and returned to the U.S. because of a bronchial and larynx problem, while ex-Olympic champion Steve Ovett was also not competing, though he was in Nice to commentate for British Television.

American Calvin Smith, world 100 metres record-holder, runs in the 200 metres and Nigeria's Chidi Imoh, second fastest in the world over 100 metres last year, is

to line up in at least one of the sprints.

But Britain's Linford Christie, Europe's 100 metres champion, has pulled out after finishing a disappointing third behind American Lee McRae and Imoh on Friday and complaining of tiredness.

American Butch Reynolds, who ran the fastest 400 metres time ever recorded in Europe on Friday, was another last-minute withdrawal joining an absentee list headed by Bubka.

A Soviet team official told the organisers Saturday that Bubka had pulled a muscle in training on Friday and would be out for three weeks, jeopardising the vaulter's ambition of defending his world championship in Rome in less than two months.

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GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP) — Third-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain, demonstrating his strong service and deft volleys, downed Ronald Agenor of Haiti 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) Sunday to win the \$231,000 Swiss Open tennis tournament.

The 22-year-old Spaniard won the \$40,000 first prize and his first Grand Prix singles title of 1987 on the clay courts here.

Sanchez, a Davis Cup player for Spain, won the first two sets in just under one hour, profiting from the Haitian's weak back-

hand service returns.

Agenor, ranked 65th in the world and playing in his first Grand Prix final, rallied in the third set, breaking Sanchez's service in the fifth game.

"I played too quickly in the first two sets and finally settled down at the beginning of the third," he said later.

The 22-year-old resident of France served for the set at 5-4, quickly fell behind 0-40 and lost the game on unforced errors.

"I still lack a degree of concentration, and at this level of play,

mental lapses are not forgiven," he said.

Sanchez raced to a 6-1 lead in the tiebreaker and concluded the two-hour match on the fifth match point with a forehand drop volley.

"It was difficult playing here on clay after Wimbledon, but I adjusted as the tournament went on," Sanchez said. "I played well at Wimbledon, played well here, so I'm confident going in to the Davis Cup match against Paraguay, although I still must be more consistent mentally."

Sanchez wins Swiss Open title

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Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Batshaw

AMMAN — Last week the U.S. dollar moved higher but was still trading within a very narrow and thin range which made the trading on the currencies very small. The main reason behind this direction was the uncertain and unclear decisions taken in the Venice summit.

The dollar traded between 0.342-0.347 fils on the Jordanian dinar. Local banks were still covering their short dollar position because they feared that the dollar might move higher this week.

Charts indicate that the dollar could move a little bit lower this week due to an overbought situation on the dollar. The expected range for this week could be 0.338-0.347 fils.

The pound sterling traded lower against the dollar because of the dollar's strength. The pound traded between 0.555-0.561 fils.

The D.M. and the S.F. also traded lower because of the higher dollar. The D.M. traded between

0.1825, 0.1845 fils. The Swiss franc traded between 0.2180-0.2220 fils and the Austrian between 0.241-0.243 fils.

The Lebanese lira moved to record lows against the dollar because of the unstable political and economic situation in Lebanon. It traded between (550-450) L.L./JD.

The Syrian lira traded between (98-93) S.L./JD and the Iraqi dinar traded between

0.15-0.16 fils.

The Kuwaiti dinar traded between 1.200-1.210 on the JD.

Metals traded lower because of the dollar's strength. Gold fell to a low of \$442 an ounce from a high of \$450 an ounce. Silver fell from \$7.75 an ounce to a low of \$7.50 an ounce.

Charts still indicate that the metals have a potential to go higher.

Gold prices in Amman based upon the daily bulletin presented by the Jordan jewellery store are as follows:

Gold 21 carats per gramme JD 4.150-JD 4.100.
Gold 18 carats per gramme JD 5.000-JD 4.500.

Oman bans foreigners from work in some fields

MUSCAT (AP) — The Sultanate of Oman has banned foreigners from working as shepherds, hawkers or public relations officers, the Times of Oman has reported.

The ban was part of a drive to ease dependence on expatriates and make way for Omani labour to replace them, the newspaper said.

Oman, like many Gulf countries, has depended heavily on foreign labour to push through ambitious development plans fuelled by the oil riches of the past decade.

Also among the 11 occupations banned for foreigners were fishermen and fish sellers, sailors, Arab and English typists and watchmen, the Times said.

It also listed workers operating small-scale mechanical equipment, light vehicle drivers, technical trade assistants and unskilled workers.

The paper said more than 50,000 foreigners left Oman last year.

It quoted the director-general of labour, Mr. Ahmad Ibn Ali Al Rajab, as saying: "There are no unemployed people in the sultanate. Job opportunities are available for every Omani capable of working."

There are no official census figures in Oman, but the yearbook Middle East and North Africa 1987 lists the population as 1.2 million in 1985, with a very large margin for error. Of that number, about 55 per cent were believed to be foreigners, it said.

Shell, Egypt sign accord

CAIRO (R) — A Royal Dutch/Shell Group subsidiary has concluded an agreement with Egypt to pump gas and oil under more attractive terms than allowed previously, a Shell spokesman has said.

The subsidiary, Shell Winning, will produce oil at two concessions in the Western Desert, Shell's deputy general manager in Egypt, Mr. Tarek Heggy, told Reuters.

The agreement, negotiated with the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation, is the first to be signed with a foreign firm using a new gas clause.

Under the clause, firms exploring for oil may sell gas they find to the government at a market-related price rather than simply recouping exploration and production costs.

The previous gas law did not allow the sale of gas and was unpopular with foreign firms, which were reluctant to help the government's drive to exploit gas fields without the chance of a return on investment.

Non-OPEC Egypt hopes to increase the use of gas as an energy source domestically so it can release more crude oil for export. It currently produces around 900,000 barrels per day of crude, of which roughly one-third is exported.

LIBRA (Sept. 28 to Oct. 22) A charitable social affair with a good friend could be worthwhile. If you attend, don't be pushy in conversations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Avoid public affairs. Instead, start that project you've been thinking about.

A PERSONAL TRIP IS IN ORDER.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Today's the time to follow through on a new idea and to develop an angle on special talent. Don't seek favors today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Focus on improving your efficiency; don't be side-tracked by an emotional friend. Tonight is ideal for romance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18) Team up with an idea person and postpone tedious chores until later. Now is the time to focus on outside activities.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) Beautify your surroundings with art work or renovation. A meeting with co-workers is a wise start for the week.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have a charming demeanor and the ability to use it in obtaining almost anything. Teach this child to use the creative side of his or her nature to get good results from natural talents. Much encouragement is needed in spite of all this. Guard him or her from jealousy.

Bahrain opposes 'mad' increase in oil prices

BAHRAIN (R) — A Bahraini minister was quoted Saturday as saying he opposed any "mad" increase in world oil prices.

"I believe \$18 per barrel is an acceptable price that gives oil the ability to compete and gives room to Gulf Cooperation Council countries to market their oil," Development and Industry Minister Yousef Shirawi told the weekly newspaper Al Adwa.

"I do not think it is in the interest of Gulf countries, as exporters, to raise the prices to mad figures," he said.

Four members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council — Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — are members of OPEC while the other two, Bahrain and Oman, follow OPEC policies.

OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) decided last December to return

to fixed oil prices of around \$18 per barrel.

Many prices on the free, or spot, market have moved above that level and some OPEC members say there is enough market strength to raise official prices next year.

The 570-member general synod of bishops, clergy and laity of the Anglican Church accepted on a show of hands the annual financial report without amendment.

Sir Douglas Lovelock, who as first church estates commissioner

controls real estate and stock

holdings for the church valued at just over £2 billion (\$3.2 billion),

said its last holdings in South Africa were in multinational compa-

nies doing a fraction of their busi-

ness in that country.

He said the church's income from those South African inter-

ests amounted to less than one-third of a penny in every

pond (about half a cent in every dollar) of total income.

"For an institution of our size, if you have a sort of money to

invest you have to have part of it

in large international firms which

trade all over the world. They

have a very small stake in South

Africa and we have a very small

stake in them," he said.

Asked about next year's ex-
pected production levels, he said
it would probably be above the
average ceiling for 1987.

A five-member committee was
appointed at the meeting to moni-
tor the behaviour of the market
and determine whether there will
be any special conference in the
event of changes, he said.

He said there was no deter-
mination what level of prices will
be for a special conference.

China, which has close ties to
some of the OPEC countries,
gave a similar commitment in

1986.

At that time, OPEC officials
said the commitment was unlikely

to have a major impact on the
international market because

China uses most of its oil domes-
tically, but said the support was

important symbolically.

Mr. Grisanti said the two coun-
tries also signed documents on

technical cooperation in oil produc-

tion during the first half of the

year.

At the meeting, the OPEC

countries decided to alter a pro-
duction and price agreement

reached in December 1986 under

which the price of oil was fixed at

\$18 a barrel and the volume of

production at 15.8 million barrels

per day during the first half of the

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Threat of major labour unrest grows in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A threat of major labour unrest in South Africa loomed Sunday after union officials said about 80,000 metal workers had voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike.

A more serious showdown is possible in the crucial mining industry, where 200,000 workers are voting to decide whether to come out.

Both disputes centre on wages and work conditions.

Officials of the newly-formed National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) told reporters that about 95 per cent of some 80,000 workers, almost all of them black, had supported a strike in a ballot whose final results are expected Monday.

A decision on what action to take would follow shortly. If a strike is called, about 400 companies will be affected in the metal and allied industries, including car manufacturers.

NUMSA, which was formed earlier this year through the merger of seven unions, says it is the second biggest union in South Africa. But not all of its claimed membership of 130,000 are involved in the dispute.

A walkout by the metal workers would pale in importance compared to a strike in the coal and gold mines, which provide more than half of South Africa's export earnings.

The 200,000 miners taking part in the strike ballot work in 27 gold mines and 18 collieries and make up nearly half the total

number of miners in South Africa.

The results of the ballot are due this week. Union officials say privately that large numbers have voted in favour of strike action.

In previous years scattered strikes in the mining industry have been accompanied by considerable violence.

South African trade unions, which were legalised less than a decade ago, have increasingly flexed their muscles in recent years in actions sometimes resulting in violent confrontations with the authorities.

Earlier this year a prolonged strike by about 18,000 transport workers touched off clashes in which police shot dead six workers. At least four workers who refused to join the strike were murdered.

Scores of commuter trains in and around Johannesburg were targets of arson attacks, and police raided a union headquarters in the city.

18 hurt in police shooting

Meanwhile police fired shot-guns at a group of stone-throwing black youths, injuring 18 of them, in continuing anti-apartheid protests.

The clash occurred in

Mohlakeng township west of Johannesburg, police added in their daily summary of politically-motivated violence.

In Tembisa township near Johannesburg, the charred body of an unidentified black man was found, the report said.

More than 2,500 people have been killed in the past three years of unrest in South Africa. The level of violence has been reduced after the government imposed a nationwide state of emergency 13 months ago, giving security authorities sweeping powers.

In another development, two men shot dead in a taxi in Swaziland were senior members of the African National Congress (ANC), the South African Press Association (SAPA) said Saturday.

Quoting "a usually well-informed source" in Swaziland, the independent news agency identified them as Paul Dikeledi and Charles Mapunda.

They were gunned down Thursday along with a woman by three white men whose car forced their taxi off the road as they were travelling from the airport of Mbabane, the Swazi capital.

Police in the mountainous landlocked Kingdom mounted a search for the attackers but reported no arrests.

SAPA said Mr. Dikeledi and the woman, Augusto Tsiniini, had gone to the airport to pick up Mr. Mapunda, who was arriving on a flight from Maputo.

Afghan rebels abandon idea to hold elections among refugees

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebel leaders have shelved plans to hold elections among refugees and the guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government, according to rebel spokesmen.

A representative of the Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) party said late last week the issue had caused differences among the fractious seven-party alliance, with five voting to cancel the exercise and two opposing the decision.

Other guerrilla spokesmen said no final decision had been taken, though the proposal had been put on one side for the moment.

"We are not very much in favour at this but it has not been completely rejected," a spokesman for Jamiat-i-Islami said.

The alliance announced in May that it would organise male-only

Third general strike in two months paralyses Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — A general strike paralysed Bangladesh on Sunday for the third time in two months, forcing government ministers and members of parliament to sleep overnight in the assembly to attend a debate.

Banks, shops and business houses across the country were shut and roads were empty of goods trucks and buses. Hundreds of government employees had to trudge through the streets to reach their offices, witnesses said.

We did not organise even one picket line anywhere in the country and yet everything is at standstill today," trade union leader Sajiduzzaman Manik told reporters.

The 25-hour strike from 6 a.m. Sunday to 5 a.m. Monday was called by trade unions to protest against a government plan to transfer some state industries to private ownership.

But the protest turned into a

Parallel probe looks into links between contra aid and drugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A second congressional committee is quietly tracing the government's network of secret support for the Nicaraguan contras, focusing on allegations that U.S. officials may have condoned drug smuggling, gunrunning and other crimes to raise money for the rebels.

Disagreements surfaced later on several counts, according to the Hezb-i-Islami spokesman. They include whether women should be allowed to vote, whether the principle of elections was Islamic, and whether it was really possible to hold them in rebel-controlled areas of Afghanistan.

The committee wants to question the three federal prosecutors

alleging that the nation's top law enforcement official, Attorney General Edwin Meese, ordered a halt to the investigation of a gunrunning ring.

Mr. Meese has denied published reports that he intervened in the case so as not to endanger an upcoming congressional vote on contra aid last spring.

But that is only "a small portion" of the potentially explosive territory the committee is exploring, Mr. Hughes said.

Mr. Hughes said the subcommittee is looking into the following allegations it has come across in extensive interviews and research:

— A convicted drug smuggler's story that he was offered a deal by prosecutors in return for furnishing some of his ill-gotten gains to the Nicaraguan rebels.

— Evidence that a marijuana-laden C-130 cargo plane was permitted to land at Homestead air force base in southern Florida, with profits from that trip reportedly earmarked for the contras.

— Allegations that the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) looked the other way on drug dealing by and for the contras.

The White House has said that some individual contras may have engaged in drug trafficking but that there was no evidence the rebel leadership supported by the United States was involved.

— Charges that U.S. officials, diplomats and friendly foreign governments allowed crimes to be committed in the contras' behalf.

Since the opening lead forces you to take care of a diamond loser immediately, win the ace, cash the king of clubs and cross to dummy with the king of trumps. Then discard a diamond on the ace of clubs.

You would like to lead a second trump, but you can't afford that. If you do, the defender who wins the third heart might be able to draw dummy's remaining trump and stop you ruffing a heart. Therefore, you must tackle hearts next. How do you go about it?

If you cash the king of hearts and give up a heart, as the cards lie, West will win, cash a diamond and then lead a fourth heart to promote his partner's trump to the setting trick—down one.

Correct is to duck a heart. Now you are in control. As long as hearts are 3-3, or if the player with three trumps also has four hearts, you are safe. Win any return, cash the ace of trumps and the king of hearts. As the cards lie, you can ruff your fourth heart as West follows suit. Note that this line also works if East has three trumps and two, three or four hearts.

Before you can solve a problem, you must be aware that it exists. Simply counting your losers on this hand will highlight where the danger lies.

After a routine auction South becomes declarer at four spades. West leads the king of diamonds. Plan the play.

You are looking at one trump loser (if you have to lose more than one, you probably won't make your contract), two diamonds and two hearts. One diamond loser can go

GOREN BRIDGE

By CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WITH A LITTLE BIT OF CARE

Both, vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH	EAST
♦ K 8 2	♦ J 5
♦ K 7 5	♦ J 4
♦ K 6 3	♦ J 3
♦ A J 5 4	

WEST	EAST
♦ Q 10 4	♦ J 5
♦ Q 9 8 3	♦ J 4
♦ K 9 3	♦ J 10 8 2
♦ Q 7 3	♦ Q 10 8 6 2

SOUTH

♦ A 9 7 6 3
♦ A 8 6 2
♦ A 7 4
♦ K

The bidding.

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

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away on the ace of clubs, so to make your contract you need to salvage one heart loser. You can accomplish that either if the suit breaks 3-3 or if you can ruff one in dummy.

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